

ON THE SCAFFOLD

**HUSBAND AND WIFE SWUNG INTO
ETERNITY**

**Josiah Potts and Wife Executed for
the Murder of Their
Benefactor.**

Both Protest Their Innocence to the Very
Last—An Affecting Scene
Enacted.

History of the Crime for Which the Couple
Suffered Death—The Day's List of
Executions—The Alleged Cotton
Belt Robbers on Trial—
Crime's Record.

ERKO, N. E., June 30.—Joshua Potts and his wife, Elizabeth, were hanged here to the gallows at 10 o'clock this morning. Miles Pawcett at Carlin, January 1, 1888. There was much excitement over the event, and the sheriff, as a precautionary measure, had the gallows surrounded by a line of the execution until it took place.

At 10:30 this morning the sheriff read the death warrants to the condemned men, who were standing in the doorway of the lattice cell which Potts had occupied for so long a period. He stood in a most dejected attitude, his head bowed, and his hands clasped in prayer. The iron bars of the cell were so close together that he never once during the reading did he lift his head or eyes. His wife stood erect and calm, her hands clasped in prayer, and with a red rose in her bodice pocket, but with a most determined aspect in every feature. During the reading of

show any emotion whatever and convulsively clutched her throat when her husband's warrant was being read and as the words "hanged by the neck till you are dead" were reached she gave a hysterical gasp and seemed to exhibit much feeling.

The reading of the warrants was finished at 10:40 o'clock and both of the condemned emerged from the jail where they

had been confined for eighteen months and proceeded to the yard between the court house and jail, in which the scaffold had been erected. During the reading of the warrants and evidently owing to the intense nervous strain on every one the deputy sheriff was so overcome that he had to call for a glass of water.

At the conclusion of the reading Mrs. Pette earnestly ejaculated: "I am innocent."

and God knows it," and Josiah Potts reiterates: "God knows we are innocent!" The gloomy procession led the way through the side door and with bravado unexpected by the spectators they seated themselves on the stools provided on the scaffold while deputies speedily proceeded to bind them with leather straps. Mr. Potts helping to adjust them. Where! and Potts sitting in all stolidity. When!

everything had been properly adjusted they were directed to rise. All of the attendants shook hands with the condemned. As they stood shaking hands, Potts made several endeavors to clasp the hand of his wife without accomplishing it. Finally a touch on her wrist caused her to turn her eyes towards his and the mute appeal of love caused their lips to meet for a brief moment. As the room was

stretched around Mrs. Potts' neck she clasped her hands together and lifting her eyes towards the sky, exclaimed: "God help me as I am innocent." Her husband reiterated in a hollow tone: "God knows we are both innocent." As the black asp were drawn over their heads shutting out the last light of day, the words of the clergyman, who had remained with them to the last, broke the silence: "Put your

Potts' vitality was very great, it being a fraction over fourteen minutes before life was pronounced extinct. When the body of Mrs. Potts was cut down it was found her excessive weight on the five foot and a half drop had almost severed the head from the trunk.

The bones were deposited in the ossuary field half an hour after the execution had taken place. The bones of their victims, Fawcett, which for a long time had been kept at the office of the district attorney were soon placed in the same field.

him washing and making, also Fawcett and them several hundred dollars, which they subsequently refused to repay. On January 1, Fawcett, with one Limburger went to Potts' house to demand the money. Limburger, after accepting a glass of liquor, left the house, leaving Fawcett there transacting his business. That was the last ever seen of Fawcett until his body was found in the following year.

In September, 1888, the Potts family sold their property and that formerly belonging to Fawcett, and removed to Rock Springs, Wyo. In January, 1889, the body of Fawcett, with the limbs severed from the trunk, the skull

burned were found by the caving of a roof of a dug-out cellar attached to the house formerly occupied by Potts. The family were brought back to Elko for trial. The circumstantial evidence was so strong that Mrs. Potts struck Fawcett on the back of the head with an ax as he was lying in bed, and also fully implicated Potts in the crime. The jury rendered a verdict of guilty.

HANGED FOR MOST BRUTAL CRIMES
QUEBEC, June 30.—Rita Dubois was hanged in the jail yard here at 3 o'clock this morning. The crime for which Dubois suffered the death penalty was murder, in February last of his wife, his two children and his mother-in-law, who

BIG HAUL BY BURGLARS.
KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 30.—The safe of Lewis M. Boler, bookmaker at No. 41 West Ninth street, was cracked by burglars last night who secured \$1,000 in cash, \$900 worth of diamonds and about \$100 in jewelry.

HANGED FOR MURDER.
BELLEVILLE, Ontario, June 30.—Peter Edward Davis, who on September 12 last murdered his paramour's husband by shooting him through the heart, was hanged here at 8 o'clock this morning. He declared his innocence to the last. The evidence upon which Davis was found

A DEATHFUL CYCLONE.
DIXON, Ill., June 30.—A terrible cyclone passed through the southern part of this county this evening. It passed through the village of Sublette, tearing down all the prominent buildings, killing four peo-

some and wounding several others. A strip of farm houses southeast of the village was also desolated and many people hurt. A school house in Brooklyn township containing twenty-four children was entirely wrecked and eighteen children injured.